

RAISE IS VOTED BY COMMITTEE FOR U.S. CLERKS

House Body Reports Measure
With Percentage Increase
for Workers.

NOT EFFECTIVE UNTIL 1918

Raise Is for One Year and Affects Only Employees Under Legislative Bill.

A 10 per cent salary increase for the Government employees receiving less than \$1,000 per annum and a 5 per cent increase for those receiving between \$1,000 and \$1,500 is provided in the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill reported to the House today by the Appropriations Committee.

This constitutes the first general recognition by Congress of the high cost of living as it is related to low salaries paid by the Government.

However, the increase applies only to such employees as are appropriated for in the legislative, executive and judicial budget.

The increase does not become effective until July 1, 1918, and is for the next fiscal year only.

Language of Provision.

The legislative provision included in the bill reads:

"Sec. 8. That to provide, during the fiscal year nineteen hundred and eighteen, for increased compensation at the rate of ten per centum per annum to employees who receive salaries at a rate not more than \$1,000 per annum and for increased compensation at the rate of five per centum per annum to employees who receive salaries at a rate not more than \$1,500 per annum and not less than \$1,200 per annum, so much as may be necessary is appropriated.

"Provided, That this section shall only apply to the employees of the Library of Congress, the Botanic Garden, and the executive and judicial establishments, who are appropriated for in this act specifically and under lump sums or whose employment is authorized herein.

"Provided further, That detailed reports shall be submitted to Congress on the first day of the next session showing the number of persons, the grades or character of positions, the original rates of compensation, and the increased rates of compensation provided for herein."

The percentage increase does not cover employees in the legislative branch of Government. Clerks in the Senate and House are unaffected.

Congressman Howard, of Georgia, attempted to get through an amendment increasing the salaries of members' secretaries from \$1,500 to \$2,000. This amendment failed on a committee vote.

The committee is understood to have been practically unanimous in the percentage increase for employees in the executive departments.

The examples set in the bill reported today in the House in other appropriation bills covering the Department of Agriculture, the District of Columbia, the Interior, the Commerce Commission and various other bureaus and commissions not appropriated for in the legislative, executive and judicial budget.

Framed by Subcommittee.

The language contained in the legislative bill was submitted by the subcommittee which framed it, headed by Congressman Byrnes of Tennessee. The full Appropriations Committee adopted it after considerable discussion.

One of the objections likely to be raised against a blanket salary increase on a percentage basis is that it penalizes the lower paid employees.

For instance, a clerk or messenger receiving \$540 a year would get a \$54 increase, while a clerk receiving \$1,500 a year would get a \$115 increase. Thus the first clerk not only gets a smaller salary, but the smaller increase.

Only For One Year.

It will also be noted that the legislative rider provides for increased salaries for the one fiscal year, 1918, and there is nothing in the rider to indicate a statutory change of the existing salary scale.

The language is generally construed to mean that a year hence, in the next bill, Congress can either go back to the old salaries, re-enact the language of this rider or modify it.

Barland Attempt Fails.

Congressman Barland, a member of the committee, made an unsuccessful attempt to include once more in the bill his pet rider requiring the Government clerks to work an additional half hour a day.

This amendment was included by the committee last year, but overwhelmingly defeated in the House. When Mr. Barland renewed his longer hours campaign in the committee today he is said to have received but a few scattering votes.

Important changes in the legislative bill as compared with the current law are given in detail below.

No Legislative Riders.

With the exception of the legislative rider providing a percentage increase for Government clerks drawing \$1,800 per year and less, the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill as framed by the Byrnes (Continued on Seventh Page.)

SUNDAY WINS DRY VOTES

Thirty-five Thousand Men Pledge Their Support.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 11.—Thirty-five thousand men have promised Billy Sunday to vote "No" when the city decides the liquor question a week from tomorrow.

In two sermons before two of his greatest audiences, Sunday drew 40,000 people stormed vainly at the doors of the revival full tabernacle yesterday, the revivalist hurried about the streets of the city, shouting into the ranks of the liquor interests.

Off came his collar and down went King Alcohol, as his two huge audiences rose in a cheering mass and pledged their votes for prohibition.

COL. HARPER NAMED TO HEAD INAUGURATION CEREMONIES

Democratic Publicity Chief Woolley Pays Tribute to District Banker in Announcing His Appointment—Latter Appreciates Honor.

Announcement that Col. Robert N. Harper had been appointed as head of the inaugural committee was made this morning by Robert Woolley, director of publicity of the Democratic national committee, on behalf of Chairman Vance McCormick, who has left the city.

Colonel Harper was notified of his appointment shortly before noon.

Woolley's Statement.

In connection with the appointment of Colonel Harper, Mr. Woolley said: "Mr. Harper's name was first presented to Mr. McCormick by John F. Costello, Democratic national committee member for the District, who stated that practically all the Democratic organizations in the District are unanimous in their endorsement of Mr. Harper for the chairmanship. It is a great pleasure to all connected with the Democratic national committee to have Mr. Harper's splendid work as chairman for the District of the finance committee for the national committee, to see him rewarded in this manner.

"At the same time, Chairman McCormick is gratified in being able to select a man so worthy of the honor and at the same time one who meets the approval of the people of the District. Everybody connected with the national committee in Washington and elsewhere will be delighted to learn of Mr. Harper's selection, I am sure."

Appreciates Honor.

When notified of his appointment, Colonel Harper said:

"I consider it a very great honor to be selected chairman of the inaugural committee, particularly because of the unanimous endorsement of the various Democratic organizations of the District and of business men generally. I sincerely appreciate their kindness in seeking to have this honor conferred upon me."

When questioned regarding the selection of his committee chairman, Colonel Harper stated that he had not yet had time to give this consideration, but that he would endeavor to recognize the Democrats of the District whose loyal support helped to bring about the selection of President Wilson.

Colonel Harper was chairman of the finance committee of the Congressional campaign in 1912. During the campaign just ended he was chairman of the Democratic national finance committee for the District, and through his efforts more than \$30,000 was raised for the national committee.

He was for a number of years president of the Virginia Democratic Association, and was chairman of the Washington and New York. He is director of the Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce, having served two terms as president of the latter organization. He has organized two national banks, two savings banks and one trust company, and is president of the District National Bank and director in two Virginia banks.

HURT IN CAR CRASH, MOTORMAN MISSING

Driver of Wrecked Trolley mysteriously Disappears From Aunt's Home.

Police have been asked to locate J. L. Wright, motorman of the Chevy Chase car that crashed into another car of the Capital Traction Company Saturday morning at Seventeenth and Colorado streets. Wright left the apartment of his aunt, Mrs. L. Bell, 912 Fourteenth street northwest, Saturday evening, and did not return.

He was still suffering from a bad wound on the head and cuts about the face, his aunt stated today, and the aid of the police was asked because of a fear on the part of his relatives that he may have fallen ill on the street.

Whereabouts a Mystery.

Inquiry at all hospitals by the police, however, failed to reveal his whereabouts.

He returned home about 2:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon, after having been to a hospital for treatment, and was still suffering much pain from the wound on his head.

He laid down for a few hours, and about 5 o'clock told his aunt he was going to get a shave and hot bath. He said he thought he would feel better if he got a shave and hot bath. No more has been heard of him.

Native of Arlington.

Wright is twenty-four years old, and at native of Arlington, Va., where his parents live. His brother, Frank Wright, of Front Royal, Va., is here.

Wright narrowly escaped death, as the collision with the trolley car was so close that he was thrown into the air. Only two other persons besides Wright were injured in the collision. They were Eugene Benson, colored, fifteen years old, 2418 1/2 street, and a woman, Mrs. L. Bell, 912 Fourteenth street northwest, who is still at Emergency Hospital with a fractured leg.

Wright was treated at Emergency for cuts on the face.

CALEDONIA RAMMED U-BOAT

Captain of British Liner Faces Death in Germany.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—The British passenger steamer Caledonia, of 9,225 tons, was sunk by a German submarine on December 4, after she attempted to sink the U-boat by ramming, announced a German admiralty statement last night. The submarine was slightly damaged.

The commander of the steamer, Captain Blake, was made prisoner by the submarine and it is feared that he will be hanged, as was Capt. Charles Fryatt, of the merchant steamer Brusnigh, last July.

The capture of Captain Blake may furnish an opportunity to test the temper of the new British government. At the time of Captain Fryatt's death many demands were heard in England that the government notify the Germans of reprisals in such an event.

Captain Fryatt was accused by the Germans of trying to ram a submarine. He was captured a year after the alleged attempt.

The latest submarine victims are the Norwegian steamer Medium, 1,913 tons, Amicilia, 1,111 tons, and Falk, the British steamer Forth, 523 tons, and the Spanish steamer Eraso, 1,214 tons. The vessels damaged were the British steamers Harlington and Harlyn.

PREMIER IS ILL, CRISIS BLAMED

Lloyd-George Ordered to Bed by Doctors Following a Chill.

KING GREETED MINISTERS

Vigorous Prosecution of War Is Objective of New Cabinet.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—Lloyd-George's superhuman endeavors of the past week in reconstructing England's government brought him down with a severe chill today.

Physicians' orders forbade him leaving his home today, and a letter which the premier wrote to members of Parliament indicated his belief that he would be unable to attend the session of Parliament tomorrow at which the new cabinet will formally take its place.

The new predominant task before the government is a vigorous prosecution of the war to a triumphant conclusion. Lloyd-George declared in his letter to members of Parliament: "I am confident I can rely on your support and energy effectively to that end."

King Receives Cabinet.

While the premier remained in bed, his new ministers were formally received at Buckingham Palace by King George and kissed his majesty's hand. A meeting of the privy council, called at noon, brought before the king the new cabinet members, who are:

David Lloyd-George, premier.

Earl Curzon, lord president of the council, who also will be government leader in the House of Lords.

Lord Milner, minister without portfolio.

Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, who has been asked by the premier to act as leader in the House of Commons and also as a member of the cabinet.

Secretary of state for the home department—Sir George Cave.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

CHRISTMAS FUNDS TO EXCEED \$500,000

Savings Systems of Washington Provide More Than Half Million to Spend.

More than half a million dollars will be mailed to holiday savers in Washington by banks who have conducted Christmas savings clubs this year.

This announcement was made today by cashiers of half a dozen institutions as accounts in the saving system were closed for this season.

This week and next will see this amount spent in the city's clothing and gift stores. About 90 per cent of the savers, according to estimates obtained by bankers and merchants, spent all of the money saved during the year for Christmas purposes.

Security Savings and Commercial Bank officials predicted today the amount of Christmas savings would be upward of \$500,000.

Will Have Money.

This means that, on a per capita basis, 20,000 citizens who were frugal during the past fifty weeks, will have money to spend for Christmas things. A conservative estimate placed the per capita amount for depositors at \$30.

Many people who will receive checks this week have no money to spend for Christmas if they had not joined one of these savings clubs. A prominent banker said today:

"Approximately half a million dollars was spent by Christmas shoppers in the city this year, corresponding to this as a result of the savings accounts, according to returned checks. About 10 per cent of those who invested in this kind of deposits will return the checks to be added to their savings accounts, it is estimated."

Certificates of Deposit.

The checks from the Security Savings and Commercial Bank are in the form of certificates of deposit, which may be left in the bank and draw an increased rate of interest in the event the sum is withdrawn within sixty days. If the certificates are left on deposit for six months or longer, they will draw 4 per cent interest.

The plan of the clubs is largely voluntary, deposits of from 50 cents to \$2 per week constituting the savings. Clubs will be started next week and appeals are being sent out by many institutions for a greater number of depositors for Christmas next year.

AID MOUNTAIN CHILDREN

Packages in Y. W. C. A. Barrel to Go to Little Ones in South.

Already the big barrel in the hall of the Y. W. C. A. has begun to fill with packages dropped there by members for the use of the children in the lumber camps of the Southern mountains.

Miss Ida Hartford, of Washington, is up North Carolina, teaching children of the lumbermen. At Camp 16, Proctor, N. C., there are seventy families with only the barest necessities. The barrel to be sent there this year.

G. A. R. TO MEET TOMORROW.

The Washington Chapter, D. A. R., of which Miss Janet Richards is regent, will meet tomorrow evening.

POSTOFFICE IN PRICES FIGHT

Acts to Cut Cost of Living as Department of Justice Starts Wide Inquiry.

PARCEL POST IS THE PLAN

Chance Inaugurates Plan to Force Down Butter, Eggs, and Poultry.

Poultry, eggs, and butter direct from producers in Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia to consumers in Washington by parcel post, as a means of bringing down the high cost of living, is the plan Postmaster Merritt O. Chance is making effective today.

Through postmasters at points within the first and second parcel post zones surrounding Washington, where the first zone rate applies to parcels, the postmaster has procured the names and addresses of 1,400 farmers who have eggs, butter, and poultry for sale.

All to Get List.

This list is being printed in circular form today, and as soon as finished the circulars will be mailed to every family in Washington, who then can get in direct touch with the farmer and source of supply, eliminating entirely the middleman and his profits.

The recent high levels at which produce has been selling has resulted in considerable increase in the use of the parcel post, it is stated.

Postmaster Chance believes, however, that there are hundreds of families in Washington who, either because of ignorance as to the methods of dealing in this manner, or because of lack of information as to where to place orders, are not making use of the parcel post system.

Will Increase Use.

Postmaster Chance expects that by thus placing the names of the producers before Washington families the use of the parcel post as a means of marketing foodstuffs will be greatly increased, and that the material savings will be effected in cost.

"Our action in sending out this list to Washington families is in line with the produce of farmers with whom we produce for sale, parcel post rates on produce, the names and addresses of business houses having for sale proper receptacles for use in shipping butter, eggs and other supplies."

Postmaster Chance today said that the parcel post has been becoming increasingly popular, and that the efforts of the department through the efforts of the department the living cost will be materially reduced.

Given Full Information.

The circular issued by Postmaster Chance gives, in addition to the names and addresses of farmers with whom to purchase, parcel post rates on produce, the names and addresses of business houses having for sale proper receptacles for use in shipping butter, eggs and other supplies.

"I will send all the circulars mentioned in the list are in the first and second zones from Washington," says the circular, "and the postage required for parcels containing eggs and butter is as follows:

"Eggs in pasteboard containers—Three dozen, 10 cents; four dozen 12 cents; five dozen, 14 cents.

"Butter in pasteboard containers—One pound, 6 cents; two pounds, 7 cents; three pounds, 8 cents; five pounds, 10 cents.

"The matter of a proper container and adequate packing of parcels is of the utmost importance," continues the circular, "especially in dispatching perishable matter during the summer season. The few complaints that have been received relative to this service have almost invariably proven to be attributable to damage to the parcel and its contents, or to the spoiling of the goods shipped, on account of insecure or insufficient packing."

Containers on Market.

"Suitable containers are now on the market for safely transporting nearly all classes of produce. It is preferable that such containers be furnished by consumers, who generally have a better opportunity to obtain them."

The Andrews Paper Company and the Harrison Paper Company of this city are the exclusive agents for this (Continued on Second Page.)

PRESIDENT BUSY

Crowded Social Program Before Executive This Week.

President Wilson's program is crowded with social engagements this week. He will attend a theater party tonight, will be host to the Cabinet at dinner tomorrow night, and will give a dinner at the White House Thursday night to State executives attending the governor's conference.

The President and Mrs. Wilson will be guests Friday night at a dinner given by Vice President and Mrs. Marshall.

The President will preside Wednesday at the opening of the annual meeting of the American Red Cross, of which he is honorary president.

LODGE GREATGRANDFATHER

Daughter Born to Mr. and Mrs. Grafton Minot.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts is a great-grandfather. Word has reached Washington of the birth of a daughter Saturday in Berlin to Mr. and Mrs. Grafton Minot, of Boston.

Mr. Minot is secretary to the American ambassador to Germany, James V. Gerard. Mrs. Minot was Miss Constance Gardner, daughter of Congressman Augustus Peabody Gardner, who is a son-in-law of Senator Lodge.

LEAVES SISTERS \$600 EACH.

Richard A. Charles, who died on November 8, last, leaves his sisters, Amelia Charles and Mary Charles, \$600 each, by his will filed for probate in the District Supreme Court today.

By the terms of the will, which was drawn in April, 1915, the residue of the estate is given to a third sister, Vera K. Charles, who is named as executrix.

GRILLS EXPERT ON INTANGIBLE

PEPCO ASSETS

Corporation Counsel Syme Asks Company's Expert About \$4,000,000 Valuations.

SHARP EXCHANGES RESULT

Witness Rebuked by Commissioners for His Objections to Some Questions.

Tracing out the origin of more than \$4,000,000 in "intangible" items like the "concealers' compensation" of \$700,000, "development charges" of \$218,325, etc., which Consulting Engineer Hallock Syme, of the Potomac Electric Power Plant, included in his valuation of that property, occupied the attention of the Public Utilities Commission and their experts and counsel during most of today's cross-examination of the expert at the District building.

There are five big items that the commission is anxious to have fully explained, Corporation Counsel Syme declared. These represent no specific investment or appropriation and are computed by the company as having fair amounts upon which to fix a definite valuation of the property and thus serve as a basis for making rates.

Principal Items.

Among these items are the following principal items:

Development charges, \$2,118,325.

Concealers' compensation, \$700,000.

Brokers' and commissions, \$700,000.

Legal, franchise, and entertainment, \$262,000.

Engineers' fees, \$60,000.

Pre-arranged questions, \$25,000.

There are several other larger items that have not yet been reached in the valuation of the company's valuation.

Several Sharp Exchanges.

The six that are stated were the principal ones taken up today, and they led to several sharp exchanges between the members of the commission and the witness and the commission's counsel and the witness.

Witness Almet objected to what he said were Corporation Syme's habit of asking "leading" questions.

Commissioner Brownlow took occasion to tell the witness that it was not for him to try to determine what Mr. Syme's habit was, but to determine whether or not the witness was answering any of the questions asked, but that he was supposed to answer Mr. Syme's questions.

On another occasion Commissioner Newman insisted that the witness had not answered a question that had been asked him.

Rebukes Witness.

These passages were followed by a statement from Commissioner Kutz that the object of the commission is to secure some data on which a fair valuation of the company's property can be reached, and that it is the business of the witness to answer the questions put to him as they are put, and not to seek to place his own construction upon the questions in the mind of the counsel when he asks the questions.

The fact that the figures in the company's valuation sheets are based on the quotations for July 1, 1916, and not on July 1, 1914, as is the case with the earnings of the company, was a point of emphasis at the beginning of today's hearing. Through a series of questions which Commissioner Kutz put to Engineer Almet.

Absolute Comparisons.

Commissioner Kutz stated that the commission desired to be set exactly right on this question because it wished to institute absolute comparisons with the figures of the company and those prepared by Engineer Peabody for the commission. The commission asked specifically with regard to the prices for labor, concrete, copper, and poles.

The figures that were given by Engineer Almet were principally to the effect that the 1916 prices had been used as the basis.

It was for this reason that the manner in which the company had conducted its valuation was to obtain the 1916 prices for the various items and then deduct from the total amount spent for them during the history of the concern, the amount spent for the same items in 1914 and 1915, giving the remainder as the proper charge in valuation figures as of July 1, 1916, the time when the commission's valuation is supposed to have been made.

\$600,000 Spent in Time.

Previous testimony has indicated that the total additions to the plant of the company since 1914, that is, the total amount of money spent on additions, etc., has been about \$600,000, which is about 10 per cent of the total valuation as fixed by the commission's experts, and less than half of that of the total valuation fixed by the company's experts.

It was for this reason that at the opening of the hearing Commissioner Kutz desired to have placed in the Record the exact manner in which the company had arrived at its computations.

It was developed by the Commissioner's questions that in the case of some of the items the company had the prices for 1914 and 1915, but had not included them in the report. He asked that these prices be given.

Sought Debit Basis.

Expert Almet explained that he had thought it to compute on a debit basis because the reproduction of the plant was for 1916, as he had found it. It was, however, he said, based on prices for all these years.

He said that some of the prices used in the computation was less than it was in 1914. He cited turbines as one of these prices. He said that the things on which there might be differences but that he did not answer as to other items. He said, however, that the company had the figures, and that they would be furnished to the commission.

The item of the "concealers' compensation" was the first of the intangibles taken up by the corporation.